

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 05655 251418Z

46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 SAM-01 DHA-02 SSM-03 SCCT-01 ORM-02 AID-05

AF-08 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 CCO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9276

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: AUGUST 25 SYRIAN MEDIA ANNOUNCE UPCOMING VISIT
BY SARKIS AND HOPEFUL SIGNS THAT LEBANESE SETTLEMENT
CAN BE REACHED

1. SYRIAN MEDIA CITED SANA DISPATCH FROM BEIRUT REPORTING
THAT SARKIS WILL VISIT DAMASCUS BEFORE END OF AUGUST.
TISHRIIN QUOTED DR. KHOULI AS STATING VISIT WOULD BE
"EXTREMELY USEFUL" AND WOULD PROBABLY TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO
ARAB SUMMIT.

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 05655 251418Z

2. MEDIA GAVE PROMINENT ATTENTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT BY ASF COMMANDER PREVIOUS DAY THAT ALL PARTIES TO LEBANESE DISPUTE WILL MEET AUGUST 27 TO DISCUSS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AIMED AT CEASE-FIRE. ASF LEADERS MET WITH CHAMOUN AND SARKIS TO PUT FINISHING TOUCHES ON PLAN, AND ACCORDING TO PRESS CHAMOUN AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO END RANDOM SHELLING OF RESIDENTIAL AREAS. ASF COMMAND STRESSED ITS COMMITMENT TO MAINTAIN UNIFIED LEBANON DURING THESE MEETINGS.

3. AL-BAATH REPORTED THAT INTENSITY OF CLASHES DIMINISHED PREVIOUS DAY WHILE AL-THAWRAH REPORTED VIOLENT CLASHES IN BEIRUT AND ALONG TRADITIONAL FRONTS.

4. PRESS REPORTED THAT PRIMIN KARAME NOTIFIED AL OF LEBANON'S ACCEPTANCE TO ATTEND ARAB SUMMIT.

5. DR. KHOULI TOLD TISHRIIN AFTER HIS MEETING WITH KHADDAM THAT THEY HAD DISCUSSED LEBANESE CRISIS EXHAUSTIVELY AND HAD REACHED AGREEMENT ON UPCOMING STAGE OF ACTIVITY. HE OBTAINED FROM KHADDAM PLEDGE THAT SYRIA PREPARED TO ATTEND QUADRIPARTITE MEETING WHENEVER "CONDITIONS GUARANTEEING ITS SUCCESS WERE FULFILLED." DR. KHOULI ADDED THAT PALESTINIANS HAD NOT ATTACHED ANY CONDITIONS ON THEIR ATTENDANCE AT MEETING. HE ADDED VAGUE STATEMENT SUGGESTING PALESTINIANS OBSERVING DAMASCUS ACCORD. HE EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT RAPID SOLUTION TO LEBANESE CRISIS INEVITABLE SINCE ALL SIDES HAVE CONVICTION THERE WILL BE NO CONQUERORS NOR CONQUERED IN THE CIVIL WAR. KHOULI THEN REPORTEDLY DEPARTED DAMASCUS FOR BEIRUT.

6. PRESS REFERRED TO ASP DISPATCH OF FURTHER MEETINGS BETWEEN IDF AND OFFICERS OF LAA DURING WHICH LATTER ALLEGEDLY EMPHASIZED THEIR DESIRE TO COORDINATE EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN ORDER IN SOUTH LEBANON.

7. LEBANESE MINISTER OF ECONOMY OSSEIRAN, IN DAMASCUS EN ROUTE FROM DOHA TO BEIRUT, LAUDED SYRIAN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON DURING CRISIS.

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PAGE 03 DAMASC 05655 251418Z

8. IN SPEECH AUGUST 24 HONORING MEMORY OF PLA MARTYRS, PLA COMMANDER BUDAYRI ASSERTED THAT SYRIAN INITIATIVE FORMED BASIS OF SOLUTION FOR LEBANESE CRISIS.

9. AL-BAATH EDITORIAL COMMENTING ON SARKIS UPCOMING VISIT NOTED THAT "NEW SIGNS OF PEACE APPEAR ON THE HORIZON. ANTICIPATED VISIT OF PRES-ELECT SARKIS TO

DAMASCUS IS SERIOUS AND POSITIVE SIGN AND COULD BE
IMPORTANT STEP ON PATH OF ENDING LEBANESE ORDEAL."
TISHRIIN COLUMNIST DENOUNCED GOE, CHARGING THAT
"FEVERISH CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED BY SADAT REGIME AGAINST
SYRIA IS ATTEMPT TO DIVERT ATTENTION OF EGYPTIAN
MASSES FROM DETERIORATING INTERNAL CONDITIONS AND
FROM TRAITOROUS SINAI AGREEMENT. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE
FOR SADAT REGIME TO RID ITSELF OF SINAI COMPLEX."
SEPARATE COLUMN EXTOLLED SYRIAN OPPOSITION TO SINAI
AGREEMENT WITH CONTEXT OF SYRIA'S NON-ALIGNED POLICY.

10. COMMENT: KHADDAMJS "PLEDGE" TO DR. KHOULI
RE QUADRIPARTITE MEETING STRONGLY SUGGESTS SARG STILL
SEEKING TO ENSURE ATTENDANCE OF LEBANESE LEFTISH
DELEGATION WHICH WOULD CONTAIN SOME OF ITS SUPPORTERS.
MURPHY

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